

## *Vice Mayor and District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers*



Congratulations to Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler and Commissioner Robert McKinzie (District III) on their election victories! Commissioner Dean Trantalis (District II) is up for re-election on March 10. Commissioner Bruce Roberts (District I) and I ran unopposed. I look forward to serving as your representative on the City Commission for the next three years.

**2015 State Legislative Priorities and Funding Requests** – The Florida Legislature meets this year from March 3 through May 1. The following list reflects the official position of the City of Fort Lauderdale, regarding State of Florida issues and pending legislation that would impact the operation of local government. We endorse and support legislation that will:

- Permit municipal governments to make necessary changes to local law pension plans
- Support expansion of passenger rail options
- Promote improved water quality and quantity
- Provide for local regulation of short-term rental properties and remove the state's preemption of local regulations on vacation rentals
- Preserve and / or enhance municipal home rule
- Support municipal government initiatives to curb homelessness
- Enhance municipal participation in state environmental permitting processes
- Encourage energy development and conservation and the development and implementation of alternative energy sources
- Clarify existing laws on community redevelopment agencies to further redevelopment within established community redevelopment areas
- Support the transfer of spending authority for the Tourism Development Tax to cities based on tourism activity
- Change the allocation of Florida Department of Emergency Management and Urban Area Security Initiative funding to cities to be based on each city's risk profile assessment
- Enact Complete Streets Design Initiatives and legislation that will provide cities the ability to regulate traffic flow within their city limits (i.e., setting speed limits and use of stop signs for traffic calming)
- Strengthen and expand environmental education, physical activity, and healthy lifestyles for City youth, while ensuring they are as protected as possible while participating in parks and recreation programs
- Regulate anchoring of vessels in waterways adjacent to residential properties
- Address repeat juvenile offenders and other juvenile justice issues
- Create smoke-free zones on Fort Lauderdale beaches

The City will also seek funding for various initiatives, including, but not limited to, crime reduction, WAVE Streetcar development, flood prevention and hazard mitigation, Riverwalk enhancement, a comprehensive homelessness strategy, promotion of the marine industry, infrastructure improvements, beach renourishment, climate change and sea level rise mitigation, transportation enhancements (pedestrian safety, greenways, and Complete Streets initiatives), and additional parks and recreation programs and facilities, such as athletic fields.

**Fire Station #8** – I would like to give you an update on the proposal for Fire Station #8, which has yet to be designed. It will be a satellite station with two bays, housing seven firefighters. On November 18, 2014, we approved a Letter of Intent to exchange a City-owned property for the 1801 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue site owned by Florida East Coast Railway, LLC. The Phase 1 environmental report on the proposed requested property has been completed by the City; the Phase 2 environmental report was completed by the current property owner.

Due to conditions set by All Aboard Florida and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, we must wait for National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) approval from the Federal Transit Administration before the City can acquire the 1801 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue site. The estimated date for NEPA approval is late May 2015, and the closing date for the land swap is expected to occur in July 2015.

A Qualification Based Selection for professional services was used, as required by the Consultants Competitive Negotiation Act, to identify an architectural consultant. We approved the final ranking and commencement of contract negotiations with CPZ Architects, Inc. (CPZ), as the architectural consultant for design. Engineering staff is currently finalizing the scope of work with CPZ for architectural services to move forward towards the construction of this station.

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- My City Hall Office Hours are Mondays from 2 – 5:30 PM and Tuesdays from 9 AM – Noon (in non-Commission weeks). To schedule a meeting, please contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or [mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov).